

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Fred Hartman
Phone: (919) 733-5612

Statement by Governor Easley on Lemons Case

Earlier today, Correction Secretary Theodis Beck denied a request to release terminally ill death row inmate Edward Lemons. Lemons' attorneys asked for an expedited review of their request that Lemons be released to a hospice in North Carolina or Michigan.

The following is a statement from Gov. Easley:

“State law gives the Correction Secretary authority to determine confinement based on an inmate’s health. And while I have concluded that this case is not appropriate for either a pardon or commutation, I have asked Secretary Beck to allow the dying death row inmate’s family as much access as possible to him within the prison context,” Gov. Easley said.

Lemons is on death row for the 1994 murders of Bobby Gene Stroud and Margaret Daniels Strickland, both of Goldsboro. He also received an additional 160 years in prison for two counts of first-degree kidnapping and two counts of robbery with a firearm.

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